

Amendment Dated April 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of January 13, 2004

US Serial No. 09/815,962

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on **page 3** of this paper.

Remarks begin on **page 7** of this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Withdrawn) Apparatus for trimming scrap from a moving web comprising:
 - a knife roll adapted to support said web as it moves around said roll;
 - a blade biased against said web as the web moves around the roll; said blade
 - 5 being adapted to trim a strip of scrap from said web;
 - a nozzle adapted to direct a stream of fluid into the area where said strip leaves said roll and generate a pressure that presses said strip away from said roll.
2. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said web comprises sheet metal or foil
3. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein said sheet metal or foil comprises aluminum.
4. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said fluid comprises air.
5. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said nozzle comprises a bore having a discontinuity at a discharge from said nozzle that reduces any Coanda effects around the surface of said nozzle.
6. (Withdrawn) Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein said bore terminates at a discharge face that is substantially perpendicular to said bore.
7. (Withdrawn) A slit for sheet metal or foil comprising:
 - a knife roll adapted to support said web as it moves around said roll;

one ore more blades biased against said sheet metal or foil as the sheet or foil moves around the roll; said blade or blades being adapted to trim one or more strips of
5 scrap from said sheet or foil;

a scrap processing system comprising:

a trim tube with a mouth adapted to receive scrap from said knife roll, said trim tube being connected to and adapted to convey scrap to said chamber; and

10 a nozzle adapted to emit a stream of fluid that flows generally outward from said nozzle, with minimal Coanda effects around the side of said nozzle, and presses against a side of said strip adjacent to said knife roll in an area where said strip separates from said roll.

8. (Withdrawn) A slitter according to claim 7 further comprising one ore more fans adapted to reduce pressure within said trim tube.

9. (Withdrawn) A slitter according to claim 7 further comprising one ore more nozzles adapted to inject fluid into said trim tube and induce a flow of entrained air into said trim tube.

10. (Currently Amended) Apparatus for removing a trim strip from a knife roll of a slitter, comprising:

a scrap receiver adapted to collect said strip from said roll; and

5 a nozzle adapted to direct a stream of fluid into the area where said strip leaves said roll in a direction generally opposite to a direction of travel of said strip and generate a pressure that guides said strip toward said scrap receiver.

11. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said fluid comprises air.

12. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 11 wherein said nozzle comprises a bore having a discontinuity at a discharge from said nozzle that reduces any Coanda effects around the side of said nozzle.

13. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 12 wherein said bore terminates at a discharge face that is substantially perpendicular to said bore.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for slitting sheet material comprising:
passing a supply web of said material between a support roll and a blade pressed against said web, whereby said supply web is slit into one or more product webs and at least one trim strip;

5 directing a stream of fluid against said strip as said the strip leaves said roll, whereby said strip is pressed strip away from said roll and directed toward a scrap reclamation receiver.

15. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein said material comprises aluminum.

16. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 14, further comprising reducing pressure within said scrap reclamation receiver.

17. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 14 wherein said stream of fluid comprises air.

18. (Withdrawn) A method in accordance with claim 17 wherein said stream of air is directed against said the surface of said roll and flows around said roll to the area where said strip leaves said roll.

19. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said nozzle is located outside said scrap receiver on the upper part of said scrap receiver.

20. (Previously Presented) Apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said stream of fluid is directed against said knife roll.

21. (Previously Presented) Apparatus for preventing a trim strip from adhering to a knife roll of a slitter after trimming and during transfer to a scrap receiver, comprising a nozzle that produces a fluid stream in a direction generally opposite to the direction of movement of the unadhered trim strip.